



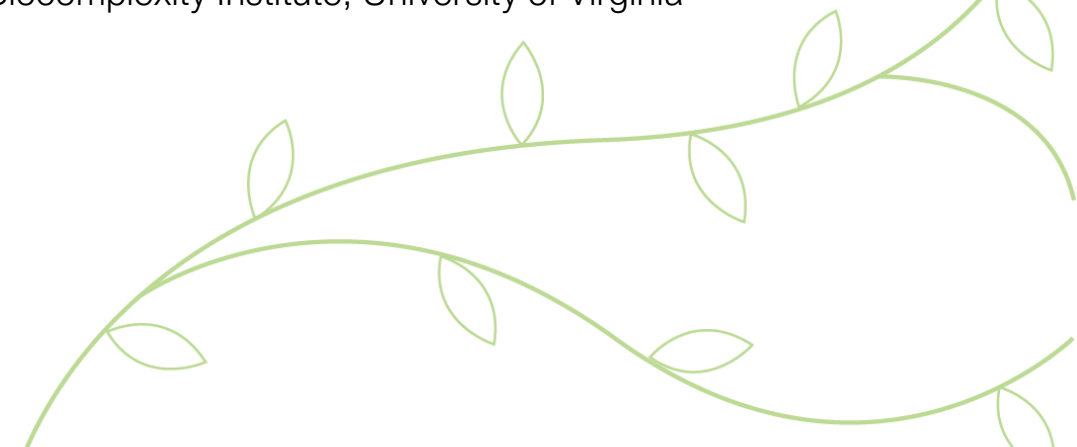
Nutrition Security  
Embracing solutions that nourish the nation

# Impacts and Echoes: The 1969 White House Conference



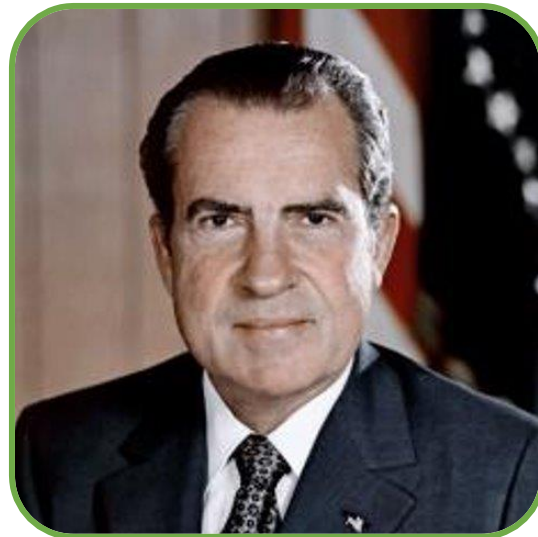
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”First of all there is a moral imperative...This Nation cannot long continue to live with its conscience if millions of its own people are unable to get an adequate diet.”

-President Richard M. Nixon, opening remarks to the White House Conference on Food, Nutrition and Health, December 2, 1969



# Legislation and other implementation steps



- 1972 Elderly Nutrition Program
  - 1974 Food Stamp Act
  - 1975 School Breakfast Program
  - 1975 Summer Food Program
  - 1975 Supplemental Feeding Program for Women, Infants and Children
- 1969 President Nixon orders GRAS review
  - Voluntary open dating and nutrition labeling of foods
    - 1990 Nutrition Labeling and Education Act
  - National Nutrition Monitoring System
    - 1990 National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Act

# What wasn't implemented from the conference recommendations



- High level continued attention
  - Special Assistant to the President
  - Federal Nutrition Commission
  - Administration for Nutrition Science in DHEW
- Transfer of food assistance programs from USDA to DHEW
- National policy on nutrition education
- Food advertisers set aside 15% for PSA's



# Echoes from the conference report



- Guaranteed income
- Obesity
- Food production and nutrition
- Science base for future policy and programs



# Today's Agenda?

- Food insecurity and health disparities
- Diet and health
- Food systems and environmental sustainability
- Science base for policy and programs



<p><b>CHRONIC DISEASES</b></p>  <p>Poor diet is the leading cause of illness in the US, causing half a million deaths per year related to obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and cancers.</p>	<p><b>FOOD INSECURITY</b></p>  <p>1 in 9 households — or 37 million Americans, including 11 million children — were food insecure in 2018; and things are much worse with COVID-19.</p>	<p><b>HEALTH DISPARITIES</b></p>  <p>Significant diet-related health disparities are experienced by minority, rural, low-income, and other underserved populations.</p>
<p><b>PUBLIC CONFUSION</b></p>  <p>There is a large and growing appetite among Americans for credible, rigorous nutritional science information.</p>	<p><b>HEALTHCARE COSTS</b></p>  <p>National healthcare spending has skyrocketed to reach nearly 1 in 5 dollars in the entire US economy, with most of this due to diet-related chronic diseases.</p>	<p><b>GOVERNMENT BUDGETS</b></p>  <p>Federal spending on healthcare has risen from 5% to 28% of the total federal budget since 1970. The US government spends \$160 billion annually on direct healthcare for diabetes alone.</p>
<p><b>US ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS</b></p>  <p>Healthcare expenditures for US businesses have increased 15-fold since 1970 (adjusted for inflation), harming global competitiveness and contributing to stagnating wages.</p>	<p><b>MILITARY READINESS</b></p>  <p>71% of young people between the ages of 17 and 24 years do not qualify for military service, with obesity being the leading medical disqualifier.</p>	<p><b>LINKS TO SUSTAINABILITY</b></p>  <p>Nutrition security is interrelated with resource scarcity, loss of biodiversity, water shortages, warming climate, and soil degradation from food production.</p>

Fleischhacker S et al. Strengthening national nutrition research: Rationale and options for a new coordinated federal research effort and authority. AJCN, 2020.

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